(c) Keeping in view requests received from the Government of Mizoram from time to time, the Department of Food & Public Distribution has allocated foodgrains to the State as under:

I. Allocation under TPDS: At present the State Government of Mizoram is being allocated full quota of foodgrains @35 kg per family per month for all the three categories i.e. AAY (0.26 lakhs families), BPL (0.42 lakhs families) and APL (0.99 lakhs families) as per applicable norms.

II. *Ad-hoc*/Festival allocations of wheat since April 2007. In addition, *ad-hoc*/additional allocation of wheat at APL rate @300 tons per month from April to July, 2007 and @312 tons per month for November and December 2007 and 312 tons as festival allocation has been made.

III. Welfare Schemes: Besides the TPDS, 4840 tons of foodgrains have been allocated under various Welfare Schemes.

IV. Additional allocations: In view of loss of crop production, based on recommendations of the Central Team which visited the State in June, 2007, and approval of the High Level Committee as part of calamity relief, 3000 tons of rice from May to July 2007 and 1581 tons of rice from August to September 2007 were allocated additionally.

V. Additional allocations at Economic Cost: On the request of the State Government, additional allocation have been made at economic cost as under:

Rice (in tons)	Period
3624	Per month from April to June 2007
3000	In October 2007
5000	Per month from November 2007 to March 2008

VI. Whenever the State Government could not lift allocated quantities of rice and wheat. extension of validity period for their lifting has been agreed.

Passenger growth patterns in main routes in Andhra Pradesh

*338. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) what is the average number of days that a passenger must book a ticket for AC accommodation in Godavari Express in advance in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that 20 days advance booking is needed to confirm an AC berth for the Godavari Express from Secunderbad station;

(c) to what extent Government has made any study of passenger demands for important trains like the Godavari Express, Gowthani Express, Norzapur Express and Charminar Express in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the steps proposed to get an outside agency to study passenger growth pattern o main routes in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) The advance reservation in 2727/2728, Secunderabad-Vishakhapatnam, Godavari Express can be done 60 days in advance. On an average the reservation is generally available in Air Condition classes in this train from Secunderbad 8 to 15 days in advance during normal period

and 15-20 days during peak seasons *i.e.* during festival, pooja holidays and during summer and winter holidays etc.

(c) The occupancy of all important trains including 2727/2728, Secunderabad-Vishakhapatnam Godavari Express, Express, 2737/2738, Secunderbad-Kakinada Town, Goutami Express, 7255/7256, Secunderabad-Narsapur, Narsapur Express and 2759/2760, Secunderabad-Chennai Central, Charminar Express trains are being monitored on day-to-day basis and wherever required additional coaches are attached subject to operational and resource constraints.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration.

Shortage of fertilizers

†*339. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that especially in Northern India the Rabi season extends from October till December wherein water and fertilizers have special importance;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is not able to supply urea and DAP;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to supply urea and DAP and by when these fertilizers would be made available; and

(d) the reasons for not providing fertilizers on time and the names of the States where adequate supply of fertilizers is not being made?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Rabi season covers the period from 1st October of a given year to 31st March of the following year.

(b) to (d) Only 50% of indigenously produced urea is under the movement and distribution control of the Government. Movement and distribution of all other fertilizers including DAP are not under the control of the Government. Therefore, the State Governments have been repeatedly advised by the Department of Fertilizers to ensure adequate supplies from the Suppliers/Importers before the start of every cropping season so that the States do not face shortage of these fertilizers.

However, there have been gaps between demand and committed supply by the fertilizer companies, particularly of DAP during the current Rabi season. This is attributable to the reluctance of the manufacturers and importers to manufacture or import to the full extent of requirement, due to the high international prices of raw materials and finished products. Department of Fertilizers has stepped in to arrange imports of these fertilizers through State Trading Agencies like M/s Indian Potash Limited. Since these agencies do not have adequate marketing and distribution network in all the deficit states to be able to reach these fertilizers to the farmers, the states have been requested, as far back as May 2007, to identify institutional agencies, which will undertake marketing and distribution of fertilizers from the rake points.

The availability of Urea and DAP during current Rabi 2007-08 season upto 30th November, 2007 in Northern States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have been adequate to meet the assessed requirement and to sustain sales as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.